

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, May marks the start of spring digging season for homeowners, landscapers, and construction companies; and

WHEREAS, failure to locate underground utilities before digging results in residents unintentionally hitting underground lines or pipes more than 200,000 times annually, leading to penalties, repair costs, inconvenient outages, injury or death; and

WHEREAS, Washington's free 811 one-call service notifies the appropriate utility companies of the intent to dig; and

WHEREAS, the one-call center directs professional locators to the requested digging site to mark approximate locations of underground lines, safely alerting the dig crew of the danger below; and

WHEREAS, all residents are required by law to call 811 at least two business days before they dig to prevent inconvenient outages, repair costs, property damage, injuries or death;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2009 as

Damage Prevention Month

in Washington State, and I urge government agencies, industry leaders and consumer advocates to educate residents about state and federal laws before they dig to ensure the safety of our residents, homes, and businesses.

Signed this 15th day of April, 2009


Governor Christine O. Gregoire

